

## **Claims**

I claim:

1. A cushion for domestic pets comprising:
  - (a) A padding layer of slow recovery visco-elastic foam;
  - (b) a supporting padding layer of a stabilizing material which supports the visco-elastic foam and provides additional cushioning, adjacent to said cushion of slow recovery visco-elastic foam;
  - (c) a protective liner of a waterproof, breathable, flexible material, enclosing both the said padding material of visco-elastic foam and said supporting padding material;
  - (d) a washable fabric cover totally enclosing said padding material of slow recovery visco-elastic foam, said supporting padding material, and said protective liner.
2. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein the supporting padding layer is comprised of a textile-based material.
3. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein the supporting padding layer is comprised of a foam material.
4. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein the supporting padding layer is comprised of a rubber material.
5. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner material comprises a hydrophilic laminate.
6. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner material comprises a hydrophilic coating.
7. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner material comprises a microporous laminate.
8. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner material comprises a microporous coating.
9. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner material comprises a bi-component laminate.
10. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner material comprises a bi-component coating.

11. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner material comprises a material fabricated from a microfiber of a sufficiently close weave to be waterproof and breathable.
12. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner is comprised of a material fabricated with a monolithic membrane.
13. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner material is naturally oleophobic, anti-dust mite, anti-odor, anti-bacterial, anti-stain, and anti-static.
14. The cushion as recited in Claim 1, wherein said outer fabric cover has a releasable closure so that said fabric cover may be removed from the said padding of slow recovery visco-elastic foam, said padding of stabilizing support material, and said protective liner, for washing.
15. The cushion as recited in Claim 1, wherein said out fabric cover is comprised of a top surface, a bottom surface, and peripheral side walls disposed between said top and bottom surfaces.
16. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner is sealed closed by a method such as, but not limited to, sewing, gluing, or thermal bonding, around said padding layer of slow-recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting padding layer in such a close-fitting and tight manner that the protective liner does not allow for the inner padding layers, of said slow recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting stabilizing material, to shift or move about within the said protective liner.
17. The cushion as recited in claim 1 wherein said cushion has numerous overall geometric shape possibilities, such as but not limited to, square, round, rectangular, semi-circular, triangular, or pie-shaped.
18. The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said cushion may be used by a domestic pet or human.

19. An orthopedic cushion for a pet comprising:
  - (a) A padding layer of slow recovery visco-elastic foam;
  - (b) A supporting padding layer of a stabilizing material which supports the visco-elastic foam and provides additional cushioning, adjacent to said cushion of slow recovery visco-elastic foam;
  - (c) a protective liner of waterproof, breathable, and flexible moisture-vapor- transmission (MVT) membrane material enclosing both said padding materials of slow recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting padding material, and having capability to prevent liquid from reaching said slow recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting padding layers;
  - (d) A washable, removable fabric cover, with a releasable closure, totally enclosing said padding material layers of slow recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting padding material, and said protective liner.
20. The orthopedic pet cushion as recited in claim 18, wherein said protective liner of breathable, waterproof, MVT material comprises a close-weave fabric of a sufficiently close weave to be waterproof and breathable.
21. The orthopedic pet cushion as recited in claim 18, wherein said breathable, waterproof, flexible, and MVT membrane material of the protective liner is naturally oleophobic, anti-dust mite, anti-odor, anti-bacterial, anti-stain, and anti-static.
22. The orthopedic pet cushion as recited in Claim 18, wherein said outer fabric cover is comprised of a top surface, a bottom surface, and peripheral side walls disposed between said top and bottom surfaces.
23. The orthopedic pet cushion as recited in claim 18, wherein said protective liner of flexible, breathable, waterproof, MVT membrane material is sealed closed, by a method such as but not limited to sewing, gluing, or thermal bonding, around said padding layer of slow-recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting padding layer, in such a close-fitting and tight manner that the protective liner does not allow for the padding layers, of said slow recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting padding, to shift or move about within the said protective liner.

24. The orthopedic pet cushion as recited in claim 18 wherein said cushion may have numerous overall geometric shape possibilities, such as but not limited to, square, round, rectangular, semi-circular, triangular, or pie-shaped.
25. The orthopedic pet as recited in claim 18 wherein said cushion may be used by domestic pets or humans.

BRIEF  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
DRAWINGS

(0040) FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an orthopedic support cushion for humans and animals, particularly domestic pets, according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

(0041) FIG. 2 is another perspective view of an orthopedic support cushion for humans and animals, particularly domestic pets, according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

(0042) FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of an orthopedic support cushion illustrated in FIG. 2 taken along lines 2 - 2 thereof; and

(0043) FIG. 4 is an exploded view of an orthopedic support cushion illustrated in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2.

DETAILED  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
PREFERRED  
EMBODIMENT

(0044) Turning now to the drawings and, more particularly, to FIG. 1, an orthopedic support cushion for humans and animals, and, more particularly, domestic pets, is illustrated generally in its simplest embodiment comprises a cushion 10, may be formed as a generally rectangular body having a top outer cover layer 12 and a fabric side panel 14.

**(0045)** FIG. 2 the orthopedic support cushion for humans and animals, and, more particularly, domestic pets, is illustrated generally at 10 and may be formed as a generally round body having a outer top cover layer 12 attached to side panels 14 and 36 by a stitched seam 24 and attached to the second covering bottom layer 34 by stitched seam 22. The completed side panel is composed of two panels: first side panel 38 is a panel containing a resealable closure, a the second side panel 14; whereby side panel 38 is attached to side panel 14 by stitched seams 18 and 20 and can be disposed to extend around the perimeter or circumference of the top and bottom panels. It is preferred the cover fabric used for the cover of the cushion of the present invention is soft, comfortable, and hypoallergenic, yet absorbent and also resistant to the adherence of stains and is highly resistant to breakage or tearing in any direction. It is further preferred the resealable closure mechanism 16 be of sufficient length to allow for easy removal of the cover for washing. Lastly it is preferred the cover be made of a fabric that can be conventionally laundered.

**(0046)** As seen in FIG. 3 and 4 of the preferred embodiment of the orthopedic support cushion of the present invention is formed from a plurality of layers which are retained in a closely adjacent relationship with each layer being formed of sheet material.

Each layer can be generally rectangular, square, round, triangular, or pie shaped and extends the full width and breadth of the cushion body 10. The present invention includes an outer cover layer 12 which is disposed closely adjacent a first intermediate layer 26. The first intermediate layer 26 is formed from a waterproof, breathable, flexible material. Following in succession inwardly toward the center of the cushion 10, a second intermediate layer 28 is disposed closely adjacent the first intermediate layer 26. The second intermediate layer 28 is formed from slow recovery viscoelastic foam.

(0047) An inner layer 30 is disposed closely adjacent the second intermediate layer 28. The inner layer 30 is formed from padding material providing support, loft and cushioning to the cushion. A fourth intermediate layer 36 is disposed closely adjacent the inner layer 30 and is formed from a waterproof, breathable, flexible material similar to the material from which the first intermediate layer 26 is formed. Finally a second covering layer 34 is disposed closely adjacent the third intermediate layer 36 and is formed from the material which comprises the first cover 12.

**(0048)** As previously mentioned a side panel composed of 14 and 38 is seamed to the first covering layer 12 by a stitched seam 24 as well as seamed to the second covering layer 34 by stitched seam 22 and extends around the entire perimeter of cushion 10. The first intermediate layer 26 is sealed closed by sewing, gluing, thermal bonding or the like by seam 32, to fourth intermediate layer 36 forming a complete bond which encloses second intermediate layer 28 and inner layer 30 forming a waterproof barrier and retarding relative movement between said layer 28 and said layer 30.

**(0049)** It should be understood by those skilled in the art that the cushion 10 of the present invention may be formed with the first intermediate layer 26 and third intermediate layer 36 may be a single sheet folded in half without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

**(0050)** In operation, the cushion of the present invention can be placed on the floor and may support a dog D as seen in FIG. 1 or other domestic pet. Further the cushion 10 may be used for children or adults.

(0051) The present cushion provides many advantages. Slow recovery visco-elastic foam offers the user of the cushion the advantages of sensitivity to temperature, recognition of shape and pressure, and the ability to adjust and distribute load as evenly as possible which provides the orthopedic benefits of decreasing the pressure on the bony prominences and facilitating blood flow. The cushion fabric cover is of an absorbent fabric that may be conventionally laundered repeatedly while retaining its soft, comfortable, hypoallergenic qualities. The inner liner of a waterproof, breathable, flexible material will not absorb liquids from the absorbent cover; thereby protecting the enclosed padding material which serves to extend the life of the orthopedic pet cushion. Most stains on the liner can be spot cleaned. Since this liner is waterproof, yet able to breathe, it often will naturally provide a measure of odor, pest, static and bacterial resistance. The ability of the liner to breathe maintains the loft and comfort of the padding materials. Finally, most slow recovery visco-elastic foam manufactured today in the United States is fire retardant. By the above, the present invention provides a unique and beneficial orthopedic pet cushion.

(0052) It will therefore be readily understood by those persons skilled in the art that the present invention is susceptible of a broad utility and application. Many embodiments and adaptations to the present invention other than those herein described, as well as many variations, modifications and equivalent arrangements, will be apparent from or reasonably suggest by the present invention and the foregoing description thereof, without departing from the substance or scope of the present invention. Accordingly, while the present invention has been described herein in detail in relation to its preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that this disclosure is only illustrative and exemplary of the present invention and is made merely for purposes of providing a full and enabling disclosure of the invention. The foregoing disclosure is not intended or to be construed to limit the present invention or otherwise to exclude any such other embodiments, adaptations, variations, modifications and equivalent arrangements, the present invention be limited only by the claims appended hereto and the equivalents thereof.